



Salmon Protection And Watershed Network

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8 December 2006

RE: RWMP Program – Second Cycle Funding

Dear Ms. Farahnak and Ms. Billington,

The Salmon Protection and Watershed Network (SPAWN) is a member of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council, a coalition of 30 groups, agencies and individuals. The TBWC is a recipient of a \$469,000 planning grant for preparation of an ICWMP (grant # 05-227-550-0).

SPAWN entered into the planning grant process with the expectation that preparation of the Plan would position us to apply for Phase 2 Implementation funds to accomplish needed, prioritized projects within the San Geronimo Valley and Lagunitas Creek watersheds. Our group has invested 100's of hours of staff and volunteer time in pursuit of our final plan, which is well on the way towards completion and adoption by June of 2007.

These projects are an essential component of our collaborative efforts to restore and enhance threatened coho and steelhead habitats in these two contiguous watersheds. The work in these watersheds to date has involved many collaborative projects with the County of Marin, the Marin Resource Conservation District, the Bay Area Regional Water Quality Control Board, Department of Fish and Game, Marin Municipal Water District, North Marin Municipal Water District, National Park Service, local school districts and educational programs, community outreach programs, and a staggering amount of community and volunteer support. Moreover, these two watersheds are counted as the most important coho and steelhead spawning habitats in the region.

Without the Prop 50 implementation funding important stormwater runoff and water contamination projects in this community will not be realized. Unfortunately, the ICWMP project may be our only opportunity to address these long-standing environmental problems in any coherent fashion.

I have just learned of several important decisions that will be made in the next few months concerning future funding for the Prop 50 program and wish to make the following comments:

1. Please reserve funding for the second cycle of critically important implementation grants for the Prop 50 program.
2. Please do not narrow the funding consideration for the next cycle of Phase 2 Implementation Funding only to the groups that have already submitted Phase 1 Implementation Grant applications for their adopted RWMP's. This would exclude groups that are currently in the planning grant cycle from any further Prop 50 funding

opportunities, and would significantly degrade the long-term success of our ongoing collaborative efforts and objectives.

3. Please allocate a portion of the second cycle of Phase 2 Implementation funds to the unique and relatively small group of planning grants that cover ICWMP's. □ This would enable these regions to apply for implementation funds for prioritized projects identified in their soon to be adopted ICWMP's.

Thank-you for your consideration. Please feel free to contact us at 415-488-0370 for any additional information if you require.

Sincerely,

Todd Steiner
Director, SPAWN

Paola Bouley
Staff Biologist

Tom Yarish
TAC representative

cc: Jared Huffman, State Assembly